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*Patent Application Serial No. 10/523,402
Reply to Office Action dated March 28, 2008***AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:***This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:*

1. (currently amended): An audio recording device which is provided with a ~~sound collection means~~ microphone, and a ~~terminal for connection~~ terminal to connect to an external device, the audio recording device comprising:

a first casing having a front side and a rear side opposite the front side, and a second casing; wherein ~~[[one]]~~ a first end portion of the second casing is rotatably joined to a ~~lower~~ first end portion of the first casing, such that the second casing can be folded and stored on ~~[[a]]~~ the rear side of the first casing;

wherein the ~~sound collection means~~ microphone is ~~provided at an upper~~ located at a second end portion of the first casing opposite to the first end thereof; ~~[[and]]~~

wherein the connection terminal is protrudingly provided on ~~another~~ a second end portion of the second casing opposite to the first end thereof;

wherein the position of the second casing can be fixed at predetermined angle intervals or at any angle with respect to the first casing; and

wherein the audio recording device can be placed with the second casing being in a downward orientation and the first casing tilting toward the connection terminal.

2. (currently amended): The audio recording device according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~ comprising a recessed portion, into which the connection terminal is fitted, ~~[[is]]~~ formed ~~[[at]]~~ from a raised portion on the rear side of the first casing.

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3. (original): The audio recording device according to claim 2, wherein a front end portion of the connection terminal is covered by a wall of the recessed portion when the second casing is in a folded and stored state.

4. (currently amended): The audio recording device according to claim 1, ~~any of claims 1 through 3~~, wherein comprising a supporting member, which abuts the connection terminal, [[is]] provided on the rear side of the first casing.

5. (new): The audio recording device according to claim 2, comprising a supporting member, which abuts the connection terminal, provided on the rear side of the first casing.

6. (new): The audio recording device according to claim 3, comprising a supporting member, which abuts the connection terminal, provided on the rear side of the first casing.

7. (new): An audio recording device which is provided with a microphone, and a connection terminal to connect to an external device, the audio recording device comprising:

a first casing having a front side and a rear side opposite the front side, and a second casing;
a hinge mechanism whereby a first end portion of the second casing is rotatably joined to a first end portion of the first casing, such that the second casing can be folded and stored on the rear side of the first casing;

wherein the microphone is located at a second end portion of the first casing opposite to the first end thereof;

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wherein the connection terminal is protrudingly provided on a second end portion of the second casing opposite to the first end thereof; and

wherein the hinge mechanism is fixable at predetermined angle intervals of the second casing with respect to the first casing.

8. (new): The audio recording device according to claim 7, comprising a recessed portion, into which the connection terminal is fitted, formed from a raised portion on the rear side of the first casing.

9. (new): The audio recording device according to claim 8, wherein a front end portion of the connection terminal is covered by a wall of the recessed portion when the second casing is in a folded and stored state.

10. (new): The audio recording device according to claim 8, wherein a thickness of the external connection terminal is thinner than a thickness of the second casing, and comprising a supporting member, which abuts the connection terminal, provided on the rear side of the first casing, whereby, when a strong force is applied to the external connection terminal towards the first casing damage or deformation to the external connection terminal is prevented by the supporting member.

11. (new): The audio recording device according to claim 10, wherein the support member comprises a bottom portion of the recessed portion formed in a step shape, raising the side of the external connection terminal.

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12. (new): The audio recording device according to claim 7, comprising a display on the front side of the first casing.

13. (new): The audio recording device according to claim 8, comprising a loudspeaker on the rear side of the first casing between the second end of the first casing and the connection terminal when the first and second casings are folded together.

14. (new): The audio recording device according to claim 13, wherein the rear side of the first casing adjacent the second end of the first casing and a surface of the second casing are aligned when the first and second casings are folded together.